

Farmland Preservation Tax Credits Fiscal Year 2017 Program Payments

Beginning in 1989, Wisconsin provided tax credits to farmers through both the Farmland Preservation Program and the Farmland Tax Relief Program. The Farmland Preservation Program, established in 1977, was aimed at the conservation of Wisconsin farmland and providing tax relief. The Farmland Tax Relief Credit was created in 1989 to provide additional tax relief to owners of farmland. Farmland owners were eligible to claim both credits.

Beginning with payments in 2011 (for 2010 tax year), the Farmland Preservation Credit was revised and expanded and the Farmland Tax Relief Credit was eliminated. Depending on the particular situation, a farmer could claim a farmland preservation credit beginning in 2011 (for tax years beginning with 2010) under the old law (Schedule FC) or under the new revised law (Schedule FC-A). However, a credit may not be claimed on the same farm acreage using both Schedule FC and Schedule FC-A.

Under the revisions to the farmland preservation program, a credit can still be claimed under the old Schedule FC law if, among other considerations, the claimant remains subject to a farmland preservation agreement that was entered into prior to July 1, 2009. Alternatively, a credit can be claimed on new the Schedule FC-A form by a person who owns a farm that is covered by a farmland preservation agreement entered into on or after July 1, 2009 or owns a farm located in an area designated in a certified exclusive agricultural use zoning or farmland preservation zoning ordinance.

One of major differences between the credit under the old law (Schedule FC) and the credit under the new law (Schedule FC-A), is that under the old law the credit is partially determined by the claimant's household income and property taxes. In addition, the maximum credit allowed under the old law (Schedule FC) is \$4,200. In calculating the credit under the new law (Schedule FC-A), neither income nor property taxes impact the amount of the credit. The new law credit is, instead, calculated as a flat payment of \$5, \$7.50, or \$10 per acre, depending on the characteristics of the qualifying farmland. In addition, no limitation is placed on the amount of the credit that may be received under the new law (Schedule FC-A).

In 2017, approximately 1,200 farmers received \$0.8 million in farmland preservation credits under the old law and about 10,700 farmers received \$15.8 million under the new version of the credit. The greatest number of claimants in any county under the old law was 116 in Dane County. The greatest number of claimants under the new law was 1,083 was also in Dane County. In total, in 2017 about \$16.6 million in farmland preservation credits were distributed to 11,895 claimants for farmland covering around over 2.3 million acres.

FARMLAND CREDITS BY COUNTY (*)
 Payments in state FY17 primarily for tax year 2016 claims

County	Old Law - Schedule FPC			New Law - Schedule FPC-A		
	No of Claims	\$ Amount of Credit	Acreage	No of Claims	\$ Amount of Credit	Acreage
Adams	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Ashland	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Barron	12	6,787	3,551	129	206,841	27,088
Bayfield	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Brown	35	16,357	4,907	497	528,862	69,736
Buffalo	25	34,082	7,440	≤5	s	s
Burnett	≤5	s	s	8	27,964	3,603
Calumet	6	5,065	1,042	218	298,288	38,822
Chippewa	10	6,603	1,440	13	15,551	2,313
Clark	14	9,889	2,519	173	256,798	39,615
Columbia	35	24,427	5,214	551	842,706	111,498
Crawford	15	15,328	2,745	55	83,958	11,651
Dane	116	64,032	15,687	1,083	1,450,439	191,009
Dodge	62	46,385	9,800	487	678,693	87,400
Door	9	5,735	1,497	33	25,882	3,502
Douglas	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Dunn	10	7,702	2,043	49	101,492	13,087
Eau Claire	≤5	s	s	179	309,548	38,750
Florence	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fond du Lac	47	26,031	5,931	765	1,102,472	145,553
Forest	0	0	0	≤5	s	s
Grant	35	17,376	6,343	391	729,757	97,618
Green	37	29,996	7,731	35	41,419	5,803
Green Lake	13	6,765	2,504	173	295,757	39,385
Iowa	34	24,012	7,407	585	1,046,095	138,741
Iron	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Jefferson	10	6,094	1,102	555	697,421	91,559
Juneau	6	4,723	1,314	0	0	0
Kenosha	0	0	0	≤5	s	s
Kewaunee	42	30,334	7,044	454	569,381	76,560
La Crosse	17	8,806	3,094	213	361,838	46,912
Lafayette	33	25,078	6,360	203	352,280	45,323
Langlade	0	0	0	183	380,456	43,662
Lincoln	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Manitowoc	35	12,873	5,085	648	844,545	111,936
Marathon	30	15,030	5,825	189	299,648	40,341
Marinette	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Marquette	≤5	s	s	36	83,194	11,297
Menominee	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milwaukee	≤5	s	s	17	14,495	1,895
Monroe	12	4,406	2,326	21	37,344	6,112
Oconto	11	3,517	1,957	7	1,571	197
Oneida	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Outagamie	15	8,900	1,608	268	321,892	42,621
Ozaukee	15	4,276	1,922	52	49,975	6,614
Pepin	10	8,174	2,367	≤5	s	s
Pierce	9	5,715	1,539	17	23,057	2,866
Polk	10	11,895	2,440	6	8,040	1,398
Portage	≤5	s	s	20	22,743	3,031
Price	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Racine	≤5	s	s	24	33,452	4,309

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	No of Claims	\$ Amount of Credit	Acreage	No of Claims	\$ Amount of Credit	Acreage
Richland	24	16,997	5,063	246	435,646	56,933
Rock	20	13,718	2,779	404	700,121	91,620
Rusk	≤5	s	s	0	0	0
St Croix	10	4,912	1,928	87	133,038	17,835
Sauk	38	23,261	8,758	327	530,350	70,451
Sawyer	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Shawano	28	21,084	5,632	176	250,604	32,750
Sheboygan	39	16,706	4,388	252	347,079	46,077
Taylor	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Trempealeau	79	57,238	16,498	12	11,988	1,593
Vernon	27	20,310	4,212	106	131,589	17,354
Vilas	0	0	0	≤5	s	s
Walworth	17	7,822	2,023	254	376,094	48,332
Washburn	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Washington	8	2,906	1,780	22	32,975	4,392
Waukesha	17	5,499	2,666	47	75,188	9,705
Waupaca	9	6,553	1,162	101	192,728	25,383
Waushara	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Winnebago	15	3,799	2,727	68	83,694	10,829
Wood	6	6,606	1,089	15	17,841	2,455
Total	1,185	783,741	207,986	10,710	15,829,168	2,086,431

Notes:

(*) Information in this table does not incorporate subsequent adjustments to eliminate duplicate entries; amended returns by claimants, and returns based on DOR audits. The total amount of credit reported in this table may not equal to the official credit amount, as reported in the Annual Fiscal Report, Budgetary Basis, FY17.

(1) s - Suppressed, the number of claimants is five or less.

(2) Grand total includes returns for which no county is specified, out of state returns, and trust and estate claimants.